

TO : Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications:

As longstanding fans of ABC programs, television; FM Radio and Radio National, on behalf of my husband and self wish to make it known that we are not happy with past and current changes being made to the ABC.

Indeed, when overseas, one of the things we miss about Australia is the quality and standard of the ABC! We listen especially to FM every morning at breakfast time; Phillips Adams at night, and music programs throughout the day as well of course, television programs including News; 7.30 report; and other programs. It is very sad to see icons such as the ABC being trashed. If those making the decisions really loved the ABC they wouldn't do it!!

We pay taxes to help provide some independent thinking and depth in various programs than those dominated by private interests, eg. Gina Rhinehart; Murdoch rubbish; etc. Murdoch's interests have been seen to be corruptive for years providing his view of the world! Do the right thing and leave the ABC programs to those who care about quality through specialist units.. There has been excellent programming. Why trash it? As it is, there is little on tv on commercial channels. If ABC goes down the same path one could ask, what is the point of even having a television?

We do expect the ABC to be a producer of innovative quality programming in all areas. We want:

1. the ABC to be less dependent upon outsourced programming;
2. the ABC to be funded and rebuilt so that it has strong specialists units to produce high quality and genuinely local in-house programming in all program genres on radio and television; and
- 3 to be a public broadcaster that is focused on diversity and quality, not ratings - eg. there are already too many "reality" shows, however, unreal they really are.

A COUNTRY THAT CANNOT SEE WHAT A VALUABLE CULTURAL ASSET IT HAS PROBABLY DOESN'T DESERVE IT. EVERYTHING THESE DAYS IS ONLY VALUED IF IT CAN "MAKE A BUCK" - A NATION OF PHILISTINES IS THE WAY WE ARE HEADING, LOSING OURSELVES IN THE PROCESS.

PLEASE POLITICIANS, THINK BEYOND THE NEXT ELECTION -THE CARING PUBLIC OUT THERE ARE - WHETHER IT IS THE ENVIRONMENT OR OTHER CULTURAL ASSETS

Hopefully yours,

Geraldine & Salim Lakha